

# West Central German

**West Central German** (German: *Westmitteldeutsche Dialekte*) belongs to the Central, High German dialect family in the German language. Its dialects are thoroughly Franconian and comprise the parts of the Rhinelandic continuum located south of the Benrath line isogloss, including the following sub-families:

- **Central Franconian** (*Mittelfränkisch*)
  - Riparian (*Ripuarisch*), spoken in North Rhine-Westphalia (including *Kölsch*) and German-speaking Belgium and a small edge in the south of the Dutch province of Limbourg.
  - Moselle Franconian (*Moselfränkisch*) in Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland and France (*francique mosellan*)
    - Luxembourgish (*Lëtzebuergesch*, *luxembourgeois*) in Luxembourg, Belgium and France (*francique luxembourgeois*)
    - Riograndenser Hunsrückisch, spoken in Brazil and derived from the Hunsrückisch dialect of Moselle Franconian
- **Rhine Franconian** (*Rheinfränkisch*, *francique rhénan*)
  - Palatinate Franconian (*Pfälzisch*, *francique palatin*), spoken in Rhineland-Palatinate
    - Lorraine Franconian (*Lothringisch*, *francique lorrain*) in the French region of Lorraine
    - Bukovina German (*Bukowinadeutsch*) in Bukovina (extinct)
    - Pennsylvania German (*Pennsylvaniadeutsch*) in historical communities in North America, especially in Pennsylvania.
  - Hessian (*Hessisch*) in Hesse and the Rhenish Hesse region of Rhineland-Palatinate
    - North Hessian (*Nordhessisch*)
    - Central Hessian (*Mittelhessisch*)
    - East Hessian (*Osthessisch*)

West Central German	
Westmitteldeutsch	
Geographic distribution	Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland, Hesse, North Rhine-Westphalia, Lorraine, Deutscherei
Linguistic classification	Indo-European <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Germanic<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ West Germanic<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Irminonic<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ High German<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Central German<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <b>West Central German</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
Subdivisions	Central Franconian Rhine Franconian
Glottolog	high1287 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/high1287">http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/high1287</a> ) <sup>[1]</sup>
	
West Central German–language area	

Apart from *West Central German* on the southern edge and in south-east Franconian dialects are turning to *Upper German*. This transition area between *Central German* and *Upper German* is captured by the dialect families of *South Franconian German* and *East Franconian German*, colloquially miscalled *Franconian* as dialects of this sub-family are spoken all over *Franconia*.

West Central German was spoken in several settlements throughout America, for example in the *Amana Colonies*.

## See also

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- *East Central German*
- *Limburgish language*
- *High German consonant shift*

1. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "West Middle German" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/high1287>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

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